



TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

April 2006



The 240-kilometer Banda Aceh to Meulaboh road is the economic backbone of the region and connects Aceh Province with the rest of North Sumatra and Indonesia. The reconstruction of the Banda Aceh to Meulaboh road will ensure mobility, improve communications, create local jobs, and foster economic growth in the tsunami-devastated region. USAID is committed to engaging communities in the reconstruction process and, through its contractor, will employ Achenese to work on road maintenance and rehabilitation, injecting much needed cash into local communities.

Photo: C. Gredler, USAID/Indonesia

OVERVIEW

The U.S. government was one of the first donors to respond to the disaster, and remains one of the largest contributors to relief and reconstruction efforts in Indonesia. Through numerous grants to NGOs, international organizations, and UN agencies, USAID has helped stabilize the humanitarian situation in Aceh, avert a public health crisis and get survivors back on their feet.

PROGRAMS

REBUILDING SHELTER AND KEY INFRASTRUCTURE

USAID is assisting communities to recovery and reconstruct by providing much needed shelter, and working with the Indonesian Government to rebuild key infrastructure, ensuring proper mapping and planning is considered through local cooperation.

RESTORING LIVELIHOODS

By focusing efforts at the local level, USAID enables communities to direct capacity building to benefit them collectively. USAID's Community Based Recovery Initiative is working with the community in 59 villages to plan for the future and the return of livelihoods.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY AND GOVERNANCE

USAID is providing assistance to restore local government services in Aceh, working to increase governmental accountability and transparency, strengthen the local legislative process, promote citizen engagement and civil service reform, and improve the delivery of basic services.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Providing Shelter for Internally Displaced Persons

In January, CHF International broke ground on 122 permanent houses to be built under its cooperative agreement with USAID in two villages along the Banda Aceh to Meulaboh road corridor that will directly benefit more than 400 people who were left homeless by the tsunami.

Strengthening transportation links

The Banda Aceh to Meulaboh Road Project spans approximately 240 km with more than 110 water crossings. It is the economic backbone of the region, connecting Aceh Province with the rest of North Sumatra and Indonesia. New sections of road are currently being completed to realign and/or replace the existing road, which is no longer useable due to extensive tsunami damage and land mass alterations.

Rehabilitating health and sanitation infrastructure

USAID will spend \$5.4 million for Aceh Province over the next four years to renovate and equip health clinics; train nurse midwives; form and train village health committees; and provide protection for the vulnerable, including women and children.

Total U.S. government assistance committed:

\$400.1 million

CONTINUES >



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Jantang is a small coastal village located in the foothills of Lhoong, Aceh Besar, one of three districts severely devastated by the tsunami. This once-thriving agricultural community was withering away in its own salt-infested soil; in fact, many did not believe that crops could ever be grown in these coastal areas again due to the tsunami salt. Jantang proved them wrong. With USAID assistance, 53 villages in the District of Aceh Besar are cultivating and replanting crops in the target areas.

Photo: C. Gredler, USAID/Indonesia

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Enhancing quality education

USAID signed a \$14 million MOU with Syiah Kuala University in Aceh to construct a new teacher training facility and provide technical assistance. The design will be finalized in May and construction will follow. USAID has also significantly expanded President Bush's Indonesia education initiative to improve the quality of basic education in Aceh. The program is currently working with 40 public and private elementary schools serving 8,500 students in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar and will add 110 additional schools in 2006.

Empowering community and economic infrastructure

Support to livelihoods restoration and community-level infrastructure is on-going in 59 USAID supported villages. 36 community centers, 4 recreational facilities and 40 village offices provide essential space to reestablish village leadership, and enable community members to create community development plans for reconstruction.

Investing in high value sectors

The National Cooperative Business Association is promoting agribusiness and micro-credit opportunities. In coffee production, 22 farmer groups are participating in organic certification, procurement and marketing.

Providing access to capital, and technical training

Under a public private partnership with Chevron, USAID is providing vocational skills training to 330 youth from tsunami affected areas. Learning skills critical to the reconstruction efforts, such as house construction, electrical installation, and computer applications, graduates are finding employment when they return to their communities.

Reducing vulnerability of women and children

Through USAID, The Asia Foundation is helping women in 42 villages manage revolving funds, increasing their access to capital to re-start or expand small businesses. Female graduates can also develop skills to compete in the job market via USAID funded libraries and computer labs. Through the involvement of community leaders and public awareness campaigns, USAID is reducing vulnerability to trafficking.

Assisting Key Reconstruction Officials

USAID provided technical assistance to the BRR's communications team in the lead up to the one-year commemoration. Over 450 journalists were in Aceh in December. Advisors helped the BRR to craft a strategy, frame messages, and manage the tremendous press coverage.

Increasing Accountability and Transparency

The Local Governance Support Program provides workshops on civic engagement and monitoring of key services such as education, housing, local economic development and health. Training also is provided to focus on election logistics and election management integrity.